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Facility Master Plan To Be Created To Assist Andover in Long Range Planning

For Immediate Release -- January 8, 2016 -- Andover, MA -- The Andover Public Schools and the Town of Andover are excited to announce a major town wide initiative that will analyze and evaluate the town's municipal and educational facilities to uncover areas that need improvement. The study will culminate in a 10-year master plan outlining solutions for optimizing the town's buildings.

"The facilities master plan will provide the Town with critically important information so we can begin to develop a long range financing plan for improving our buildings," said Town Manager Andrew Flanagan. "Integrating the outcomes of this process with future capital improvement programs is the key to turning the plan into a reality."

Award winning facilities and master planning consultant MGT of America has been selected to conduct the study, which launched this week with a series of in-depth meetings with department heads and tours of the town's buildings.

"This is an extremely valuable opportunity to take a systemic look at our buildings to see where improvements are needed so that the town and the schools are operating with optimum efficiency," said Andover Public School Superintendent Sheldon Berman. "We are excited about this effort and value the public's opinion. Everyone will have a chance to voice concerns or issues they have with any of the town's buildings."

MGT will focus on four areas of assessment, site conditions, building conditions, technology readiness and educational suitability, the latter focusing on how the condition of the building affects the educational process.

"Facilities that house the town services have an impact on how efficiently those services can be provided to the public," said Dodds Cromwell, AIA, MGT Vice President of Facilities and Master Planning. "Creating a long range plan that has community input can best utilize the limited resources of the town."

This is the first long-range facilities master plan for the Town of Andover, according to Edwin Ataide, Deputy Director of Plant and Facilities. "This is a great opportunity to look at all the buildings as a whole to see what we need in the future, so that there will be fewer surprises," he said.

The study and ensuing master plan is welcome news to Liz Roos, Principal at West Elementary School, one of the oldest buildings in town. "To take a comprehensive look at the whole puzzle, instead of bits and pieces, will be so beneficial to the town." She added that West Elementary PTO is thrilled that they will have a voice in this process.

Plans are being put in place for a February community forum to solicit input on town and school buildings. Once the master plan is formulated, the public will have additional opportunities to review the plan and provide input.

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